

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An interworking node operatively connectable to a plurality of call control nodes each including switching intelligence and narrowband switching fabric and a plurality of connection control nodes each including broadband switching fabric and each being capable of processing a communication using one of a plurality of formats, said interworking node comprising:

means for interworking between said plurality of call control nodes and said plurality of connection control nodes; and

a database communicably coupled to said means for interworking for linking a particular one of said plurality of connection control nodes with a corresponding one of said plurality of formats wherein a call control instruction transmitted by said particular one of said call control nodes and forwarded by said interworking node to one of said connection control nodes is used for controlling call connection over said broadband switching fabric within said one connection control node and wherein said call control instruction is translated by said interworking node into said one of said plurality of formats compatible with said one connection control node;

means for receiving a communication from or for said particular connection control node;

means for ascertaining said corresponding format associated with said particular connection control node by accessing said database; and

means for translating said communication responsive to said ascertained corresponding format.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said plurality of formats comprises at least one format in accordance with the H.248 standard.

3. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein said plurality of formats comprises a binary format and a text format.

4-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A system for combining narrowband and broadband transport mechanisms in a communications network, comprising:

a call control node including switching intelligence and narrowband switching fabric;

a plurality of connection control nodes each including broadband switching fabric and each being capable of processing a communication using one of a plurality of formats and relying on said switching intelligence within said call control node for providing call connection control over said broadband switching fabric; and

an intermediate node operatively connectable to said call control node and said plurality of connection control nodes, said intermediate node being adapted to interwork between said call control node and said plurality of connection control nodes, said intermediate node further including a database for linking a particular one of said plurality of connection control nodes with a corresponding one of said plurality of formats and wherein said intermediate node translates messages associated with said call connection control issued by said call control node into said format compatible with a corresponding one of said plurality of connection control nodes;

wherein said intermediate node is further adapted to receive a communication from or for said particular connection control node and ascertain said corresponding format associated with said particular connection control node by accessing said database, said intermediate node being further adapted to translate said communication responsive to said ascertained corresponding format.

7. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein said plurality of connection control nodes comprise at least part of a broadband network.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein said plurality of connection control nodes comprise media gateways, and said intermediate node comprises mediation logic.

9. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein said plurality of formats comprises at least one format in accordance with the H.248 standard.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein said plurality of formats comprises a binary format and a text format.

11-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A method for combining narrowband and broadband transport mechanisms in a communications network, comprising the steps of:

providing a call control node including switching intelligence and narrowband switching fabric, a plurality of connection control nodes each including broadband switching fabric and each being capable of processing a communication using one of a plurality of formats and an intermediate node for interworking between said call control node and said plurality of connection control nodes;

linking a particular one of said plurality of connection control nodes with a corresponding one of said plurality of formats at said intermediate node;

wherein said plurality of connection control nodes rely on said switching intelligence within said call control node for providing call connection control over said broadband switching fabric and wherein said intermediate node forwarding a message associated with said call connection control transmitted by said call control node to a particular one of said connection control nodes translates the format of said message to be compatible with said particular one of said connection control nodes;

receiving a communication from or for said particular connection control node at said intermediate node;

ascertaining said corresponding format associated with said particular connection control node; and

translating said communication responsive to said ascertained corresponding format.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said step of linking further comprises the step of:

linking said particular connection control node with said corresponding format at said intermediate node, said corresponding format being a format in accordance with the H.248 standard.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein said step of linking further comprises the step of:

linking said particular connection control node with said corresponding format at said intermediate node, said corresponding format being a binary format or a text format.

16-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method for processing a communication associated with a particular one of a plurality of connection control nodes at an intermediate node in a communications network combining narrowband and broadband transport mechanisms, said communications network further comprising a call control node including switching intelligence and narrowband switching fabric, each of said connection control nodes including broadband switching fabric broadband switching fabric each being capable of processing a communication using one of a plurality of formats, said intermediate node interworking between said call control node and said plurality of connection control nodes, said method comprising the steps of:

linking a particular one of said plurality of connection control nodes with a corresponding one of said plurality of formats at said intermediate node;

wherein said plurality of connection control nodes rely on said switching intelligence within said call control node for providing call connection control over said broadband switching fabric and wherein said intermediate node forwarding a message associated with said call connection control transmitted by said call control node to a particular one of said connection control nodes translates the format of said message to be compatible with said particular one of said connection control nodes;

receiving a communication message from said particular connection control node at said intermediate node wherein said communication message provides certain call control instructions to said broadband switching fabric within a particular one of said connection control nodes ;

ascertaining a corresponding format used by said particular connection control node in processing said communication message, said corresponding format being one of a plurality of formats usable by said plurality of connection control nodes; and

translating said communication message responsive to said ascertained corresponding format.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein said step of ascertaining further comprises the step of:

ascertaining said corresponding format at said intermediate node, said corresponding format being a format in accordance with the H.248 standard.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein said step of ascertaining further comprises the step of:

ascertaining said corresponding format at said intermediate node, said corresponding format being a binary format or a text format.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for processing a communication associated with a particular one of a plurality of connection control nodes at an intermediate node in a communications network combining narrowband and broadband transport mechanisms, said communications network further comprising a call control node

including switching intelligence and narrowband switching fabric, each of said connection control nodes including broadband switching fabric, said intermediate node interworking between said call control node and said plurality of connection control nodes, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a communication message for a particular one of said connection control nodes at said intermediate node wherein said communication message generated by said switching intelligence within said call control node for providing call control instructions to said broadband switching fabric within said particular one of said connection control nodes ;

ascertaining a corresponding format usable by said particular connection control node in processing said communication message, said corresponding format being one of a plurality of formats usable by said plurality of connection control nodes; and

translating said communication message responsive to said ascertained corresponding format; and

transmitting said translated communication from said intermediate node to said particular connection control node.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein said step of ascertaining further comprises the step of:

ascertaining said corresponding format at said intermediate node, said corresponding format being a format in accordance with the H.248 standard.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein said step of ascertaining further comprises the step of:

ascertaining said corresponding format at said intermediate node, said corresponding format being a binary format or a text format.

24. (Cancelled)